

What is claimed is:

1. A dunnage-producing system, comprising a dunnage supply having an outlet through which one or more crumpled strips are supplied, a positioning device that positions in juxtaposition portions of one or more strips of dunnage, and a stapler for connecting the juxtaposed portions to hold them together.
2. A system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the dunnage supply includes a converter that is operable to convert a sheet stock material into a strip of relatively less dense dunnage.
3. A system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the positioning device juxtaposes longitudinally spaced portions of the same strip of dunnage.
4. A system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the positioning device includes a coiler operable to roll the strip of dunnage into a coil, and the stapler is operable to connect a trailing end portion of the strip of dunnage to an adjacent, next-innermost portion of the strip in the coil.
5. A system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the stapler is operable to insert at least one staple into the juxtaposed portions.
6. A system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the stapler is of a type that inserts a plastic staple.
7. A system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the stapler is configured for injecting a plastic staple having a cross-bar at one end through the strip of dunnage, the staple having a paddle at the opposite end for resisting passage through the strip of dunnage and an elongated filament interconnecting the cross-bar and the paddle.

8. A system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the stapler is operable to form a staple from at least one of the juxtaposed portions and to insert the staple into another of the juxtaposed portions to mechanically lock together the juxtaposed portions.

5

9. A system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the stapler is operable to form a tab in the strip of dunnage and to push the tab into the strip.

10. A method of making a dunnage product, comprising the steps of
10 supplying one or more crumpled strips of dunnage, juxtaposing portions of the one or more strips, and stapling the juxtaposed portions together.

11. A method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the juxtaposing step includes rolling the strip of dunnage into a coil, and the stapling step includes
15 stapling a trailing end of the strip to a juxtaposed next-innermost portion of the strip in the coil.

12. A method as set forth in claim 10, wherein stapling includes inserting a staple into the juxtaposed portions of the one or more strips.

20

13. A method as set forth in claim 10, wherein stapling includes injecting a plastic staple having a cross-bar at one end through the strip of dunnage, the staple having a paddle at the opposite end for resisting passage through the strip of dunnage and an elongated filament interconnecting the
25 cross-bar and the paddle.

14. A method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the stapling step includes cutting a tab in the strip of dunnage and pushing the tab into the strip.

30 15. A method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the cutting step includes cutting a tab generally having a C-shape that is hinged at one side and having a width dimension parallel to the hinge that is greater than the width of the hinge.

16. A method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the supplying step includes converting a sheet stock material into a relatively less dense strip of dunnage.

5 17. A method as set forth in claim 16, wherein the supplying step includes converting paper into one or more relatively less dense strips of dunnage.

10 18. A method as set forth in claim 10, wherein juxtaposing includes rolling the crumpled strip of dunnage into a coiled configuration.

15 19. A dunnage product made from a sheet stock material, comprising one or more crumpled strips of dunnage with juxtaposed portions secured together with a staple.

20 20. A dunnage product as set forth in claim 19, wherein the one or more strips includes one strip of dunnage rolled into a coil shape with the outer end portion of the strip stapled to the juxtaposed next-innermost portion of the coiled strip.

20 21. A dunnage product as set forth in claim 19, wherein the staple has a crossbar at one end inserted through the strip of dunnage, a paddle at the opposite end resisting passage through the strip of dunnage, and an elongated filament interconnecting the crossbar and the paddle.

25 22. A dunnage product as set forth in claim 19, wherein the staple is a tab portion extending through at least two layers of sheet material that generally has a c-shape with a hinge at one side and a width dimension parallel to the hinge that is greater than the width of the hinge.

30

* * *